



BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 28, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS:

Georgia Hanigan, Commissioner, Payette County
Nate Marvin, Commissioner, Washington County
Tom Dale, Commissioner, Canyon County
Kelly Aberasturi, Commissioner, Owyhee County
Viki Purdy, Commissioner, Adams County
Sam Summers, MD, Physician Representative
Bryan Elliott, Commissioner, Gem County (Excused)

STAFF MEMBERS:

Nikki Zogg, Jaime Aanensen, Clay Roscoe, Doug Doney, Carol Julius, Katrina Williams, Troy Cunningham

Claudia Ornelas, Ana Vidales, Jordan Seward, Surabhi Malesha, Mitch Kiester, Cristina Froude

GUESTS: Elke Shaw-Tulloch, Katie Lamansky, Traci Berreth

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER -- CHAIR

Vice-Chairman Kelly Aberasturi called the business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Vice-Chairman Kelly Aberasturi asked for additional agenda items. An informational item for the Novel Coronavirus was added.

MOTION – Dr. Summers made a motion to approve the amended agenda as presented. Commissioner Marvin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

New employees were introduced.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 12/17/2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board members reviewed Board minutes from December 17, 2019. No changes were noted.

MOTION: Commissioner Marvin made a motion to approve the December 17, 2019 minutes as presented. Dr. Summers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:

Troy Cunningham presented the December 2019 Expenditure and Revenue Report. Troy has visited with Patty Foster and she suggested some good strategies for increasing the interest earned. He noted an upward trend in personnel costs, which is due to three pay periods in November. The operating expenditures are trending down.

PERTUSSIS UPDATE

Cheryl Craig, epidemiologist, updated Board members on the pertussis outbreak impacting our region. January cases totaled 30 compared to about 14 for a non-outbreak year. Most of the cases are between the ages of 5 and 15 and 48% of the cases had been fully vaccinated. The vaccine is not as effective as some vaccines for other viruses and a waning immunity may be attributable to the gap in vaccination and exposure. Pertussis cases have been reported in all six of the counties Southwest District Health (SWDH) serves.

CALDWELL FACILITY RE-SIDING

Metal siding is being installed this week and the project is progressing despite some weather challenges. No structural issues have been encountered so far.

WESTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER (WICCC) UPDATE

The WICCC provided 50 services in the last month. Daily census numbers continue to be down and the WICCC sustainability workgroup is developing some more marketing tools. Ad spaces and geo-fencing are also being utilized. The crisis center is using two part-time clinicians to cover night and weekend shifts.

Efforts are being made to include WICCC as part of discharge plans for emergency rooms and psychiatric units. When patients discharge from the hospital for behavioral health they are often not ready to safely go home. The crisis center can serve as a step-down from the hospital to help patients transition back to home, connect them with resources, assist with scheduling follow-up appointments, and manage medications. By connecting these services, we hope to reduce emergency department utilization among this population.

Cristina also explained an upcoming partnership with Judge Petty at the Third District Court.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The SWDH Strategic Planning Committee continues to work on updating the SWDH Strategic Plan and staff on the committee are learning how to develop objectives and key results (OKRs). The OKRs will be shared with staff and Board of Health members. Community focus groups will be utilized to ensure community needs are addressed.

GET HEALTHY IDAHO

Elke Shaw-Tulloch presented information on the Get Healthy Idaho initiative aimed to build healthy and resilient communities. Some of the target areas the initiative focuses on include: mental health, diabetes, obesity/overweight, and unintentional injury (e.g., drownings, motor vehicle accidents, drug overdoses). The initiative looks at how to impact people's lives before they become ill. More information is available at <http://gethealthy.dhw.idaho.gov>.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION TEAMS (CHATs)

Cristina Froude presented information on the community health action teams (CHATs) active in five of the six counties SWDH serves. Community Health Action Teams were ignited by a charge from Board of Health to get involved with our communities at the local level. Historically, we have worked in a community until grant money was expended and then stepped back.

Board members discussed who is responsible for implementation and follow up of any community health improvement plan (CHIP) generated. The implementation piece has not been fully addressed yet. Cristina explained that some CHAT groups have already applied for funding for various community projects. She also explained that one huge obstacle to local efforts is identifying a champion for the projects identified by CHAT groups.

WESTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY HEALTH COLLABORATIVE (WICH)

Alexis Pickering provided information on this regional body of collaborative efforts across ten counties which represents about 50% of our state's population. The Collaborative's charge is aligning, braiding, and blending funding from public and private health partners. Saint Alphonsus, St. Luke's, BlueCross of Idaho Foundation, and United Way are funding partners and several other organizations are considering making investments in WICH.

Nikki shared her thoughts about the benefit and synergy coming from collaborative work at the local, regional, and state level. For example, newly formed partnerships have created an opportunity to address unmet health needs in primary and secondary schools. A new partnership with Marsing School District will allow SWDH to provide nursing staff support and health education resources to students, educators, and families. The service model is still being developed, but will likely include a mixed-funding model (i.e., health insurance reimbursement, foundation/grant funding, federal funding, and partnerships with other service providers such as Terry Reilly and Family Medicine Residency of Idaho). St. Luke's invested \$10,000 into the project and \$5,000 was provided to SWDH to provide nursing services. Five additional schools have now reached out and asked for similar nursing staff support.

HEALTHCARE TRANSFORMATION COUNCIL OF IDAHO (HTCI)

Nikki briefly talked about the work of the statewide Healthcare Transformation Council of Idaho. This council aims to improve patient experience of care, improve the health of populations, and reduce the per capita cost of healthcare. Their three focus areas are increasing the proportion of people covered under value-based contracts, improving access and reimbursement for telehealth services, and helping critical access hospitals implement sustainable funding models under healthcare payment reform.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UPDATE

Commissioner Dale provided an update from the recent Executive Council meeting. Several bills are being levied to limit counties' abilities to utilize property taxes and to cap property tax increases. The 3% increase allowed by state statute is there to accommodate the natural inflation and cost increases related to compensation plans and healthcare plans.

New growth allowed through new construction helps fund those counties' and cities' costs and Commissioner Dale explained that getting that message to legislators is critical.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Ricky Bowman, Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHPR) Program Manager, provided an update on coordinated response efforts to prepare for any potential novel coronavirus cases within our region. The PHPR team and epidemiologists are daily monitoring the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website.

He explained that at the state level a procedure for notification was written to enable receipt of notifications on state communications phones. Public health districts do not have the capability within our organizations to test for the coronavirus. Currently, all specimens will be transported to the state health lab and forwarded onto the CDC.

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV) SURVEILLANCE GUIDANCE

Southwest District Health recently received notice from Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) that WNV surveillance funding will be cut significantly. Jaime Aanensen asked for guidance on whether to continue that surveillance knowing district dollars will be required to offset the IDHW reduction. Gem County and Canyon County have established mosquito abatement districts. West Nile virus is now an endemic disease in Idaho and we know that each summer the risk for infection occurs. The district believes their resources would be better spent on education and surveillance of human cases rather than continuing to conduct mosquito surveillance activities.

Board members considered the significant time commitment trapping requires, the reliance on state funding to continue this activity, and services provided by surrounding mosquito abatement districts. Board members provided guidance to proceed with not renewing the IDHW contract this year and providing educational information and support as needed to help combat human cases of WNV.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020 Change in Employee Compensation and Benefits Report and Governor's Budget Recommendations

Each year the Division of Human Resources (DHR) publishes their plan for change in compensation and benefits. They recommended a pay increase for state paid employees as well as a bump up in the pay schedule and no change in benefit costs. Nikki explained that a decision on merit-based pay increases will be needed from the Board of Health.

Public Health Districts' Budget Request to JFAC

The Governor fully supported the general budget request presented by the public health districts. The home visiting request from the public health districts was not supported. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare received support for half of their home visiting request. In past years, Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) allocated home visiting funds without any budget requests from PHDs or IDHW. The health districts chose to seek that allocation so JFAC would know the districts want to continue receiving funding.

Legislative Update

Nikki explained the No Surprise Act being sponsored by Representative Blanksma. Board members recognize the impact unexpected medical expenses have on their communities and support Nikki drafting a letter of support for No Surprises Act HB 341. Nikki will draft the letter and share it out to board members for input prior to providing it to the legislators.

2019 Climate Assessment

The 2019 climate assessment was just completed. Nikki will be bringing the climate assessment to the board for further discussion. The leadership team has been siphoning out meaningful results and will share the plan moving forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:10 p.m. Commissioner Hanigan made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Purdy. Roll call was taken. No decision was made.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as written:



Nikole Zogg
Secretary to the Board



Bryan Elliott
Chairman

Dated: February 25, 2020